

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3, and 7 are pending. Claim 1 has been amended. Claims 2 and 4-6 have been cancelled. Claim 7 is newly presented, fully supported by the originally filed specification and believed allowable over the prior art of record for at least the reasons presented below. Reconsideration and allowance of the present application based on the following remarks are respectfully requested.

In the Specification

The Abstract was objected to for being too long. Applicants have amended the Abstract to shorten it to less than 150 words, as required. A clean copy of the Abstract is provided on a separate sheet, as required. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that this objection is moot.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 1-3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph. Applicants have amended the claims and respectfully submit that the amended claims are described in the specification in such a way as to enable a person of ordinary skill in the art to make and/or use the invention. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Lubbers et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,915,397) in view of Grummon et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,341,341). Applicants respectfully submit that this rejection is moot since claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter of claim 2 which was not rejected by Lubbers in view of Grummon.

Conclusion

Therefore, all objections and rejections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in a condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Should any issues remain unresolved, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney for Applicants at the telephone number indicated below in order to expeditiously resolve any remaining issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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